

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Washington

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Press Service

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2/5/38

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, will convene the Annual Assay Commission at 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, in the United States Mint at Philadelphia for the traditional ceremony marking the yearly "trial of the coins," Secretary Morgenthau announced today.

Seventeen citizens have been appointed by the President as members of the Commission, one of the oldest institutions in the Government, having been created in 1801 and assembled regularly since that time. There are three ex-officio members of the Commission.

At all United States Mints, one silver coin of every 2,000 delivered from the coining room to the Superintendent must, under the law, be taken out by the Superintendent for test by the Commission, which determines whether they conform to legal requirements as to their weight and fineness.

The coins are sealed and those from other Mints sent to Philadelphia, where they are required to be "carefully preserved in a pyx, under the joint care of the Superintendent and Assayer, for delivery to the Annual Assay Commission." The word "pyx" in the law refers to "pyx-chest, a receptacle for coins selected for trial," which derives from the early days of the British Mint.

For the 1938 test, 61,524 coins have been assembled at Philadelphia. H. W. Bearce, Co-Chief of the Division of Weights and Measures of the National Bureau of Standards, will carry from Washington the official weights of the Philadelphia Mint, which have been calibrated at the Bureau of Standards

during the past week.

The following members of the Commission have been designated by the President:

Mr. Ralph Steinberg,
101 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Mr. James McGovern,
Bridgeport Times-Star,
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Mr. Albert Voice,
1009 - 66th Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde,
7 West 81st Street,
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Marshall S. Walker,
Walker & Whyte, Inc., (Metallurgists)
409 Pearl Street,
New York, N. Y.

Mr. T. A. Duckworth,
Cashier, The Johnstown Bank,
Johnstown, Ohio.

Mr. M. C. Migel,
654 Madison Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Mrs. William H. Good,
880 St. Marks Place,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. Prescott B. Paull,
President, Bristol Town Council,
Bristol, Rhode Island.

Mr. Edward J. Kelley,
14 Gage Street,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Patience R. Ludlam,
Cape May Court House,
Cape May, New Jersey.

Mr. H. W. Bearce,
Co-Chief, Division of Weights
and Measures,
Bureau of Standards,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Dwight Palmer,
President, General Cable Corporation,
420 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Frank S. Davis,
80 Federal Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. Ralph Robinson,
Maryland Trust Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. Caspar Whitney,
113 East 71st Street,
New York, N. Y.

Mr. George Moore,
Kenilworth Apartments,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Ex-Officio Members

Honorable Oliver B. Dickinson,
Judge of the District Court for the
Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Joseph S. Buford,
Chief Assayer, United States Assay
Office,
New York, N.Y.

Honorable J. F. T. O'Connor,
Comptroller of the Currency,
Washington, D.C.